DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 407 922 HE 030 170

AUTHOR	Newman, Richard E.; Miller, Michael T.
TITLE	Methods for Upgrading an Intramural-Recreational Sports Program: An Agency Report.
PUB DATE	[97]
NOTE	18p.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Descriptive (141) -- Tests/Questionnaires (160)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*College Programs; Higher Education; *Intramural Athletics; Needs Assessment; Physical Education; *Program Improvement; *Recreational Programs; State Colleges
IDENTIFIERS	Peru State College NE

ABSTRACT

This study assessed the state of intramural-recreational (IR) programs at Peru State College (Nebraska) and offered suggestions for the improvement of existing IR programs. The existing IR sports program is directed by a part-time adjunct staff member with the aid of student assistants and receives limited support. Upgrading the directorship of this program to full-time would allow the college to expand the IR sports program and increase course offerings in the Department of Health and Physical Education. Specific courses should be offered that would strengthen the IR sports program, such as those dealing with the organization and administration of recreational sports, sports officiating, wellness programs, and recreation. A needs assessment and feasibility study should be undertaken to determine program offerings and scheduling. An IR Sports Council, consisting of five elected students and appropriate faculty, should be set up to assist in the formulation of general policies, rules, and regulations. A sample activity interest survey is included. (MDM)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED 407 922

Methods for Upgrading an Intramural-Recreational Sports Program: An Agency Report

Dr. Richard E. Newman
Assistant Professor of Physical Education
University of Arkansas-Monticello
Monticello, AR 71656
(501) 460-1496

Dr. Michael T. Miller
Assistant Professor of Higher Education
206 Wilson Hall
University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487
(205) 348-1170
FAX: (205) 348-2161

Running Head: Agency Report

HE030 120

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☑ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Michael T. Miller

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

Abstract

Peru State College, located in rural Southeast Nebraska, is typical of many residential colleges which must depend upon institutionally-sponsored activities for student entertainment and growth. This Agency Report was developed to assess the current state of intramural-recreational (IR) sports program offerings, and to offer suggestions for the improvement of the existing IR program. In addition to offering courses germane to student and sport development and management, the Report suggests the addition of a staff member to better centralize and coordinate the activities of IR while serving as a liaison to the Department of Health and Physical Education.

The current proposal does not provide for the creation of a new agency, but rather, provides an argument that the upgrading and rejuvenation of an existing program that is receiving minimum priority status by senior administrative officers is possible. The current case study examines the Intramural-Recreational Sports program at Peru State College in Peru, Nebraska, and is based on the assumption that the program should be afforded greater administrative support in its promotion, financing, and staffing than it is currently receiving. This statement has been founded on a personal belief by many students and administrators that the values returned to the students, and subsequently to the institution, by offering a quality program would more than justify the time, monetary expenditure, and personnel needed to upgrade an institution's Intramural-Recreational Sports program.

Peru State College is a 4-year, state-supported residential college located in a small rural community in southeast Nebraska. As such, there are relatively few social activities available to the on-campus residential student body other than those offered through the college, inclusive of athletics, programs and activities offered by the Office of Student Programs, or participation in organizations affiliated with academic disciplines. All of these activity outlets are relative and beneficial, but the

institution must consistently inquire as to their adequacy in providing enough quality options for students.

The greatest natural attraction and the largest participatory activity for residential students is the Intramural-Recreational Sports program. Accepting this assumption, it is important to examine the program and its services as they exist under the jurisdiction of the Dean of Student Services. Perhaps the time has come to adjust an administrative point of view as it would appear that a change in status is warranted.

The college's Intramural-Recreational Sports program can be an integral part of a student's development if there is diverse programming to include physical, social, and cultural experiences as well as special interest clubs (Carlton & Stinson, 1983). A graphic scheme of this proposed developmental process appears in Figure 1. The developmental process does not happen automatically, however, as it depends upon quality leadership, sound educational objectives, and the ability and/or capacity to alter programming. Programs must continue to be upgraded in quality and quantity to meet the diverse needs of the college community. This is the only way in which programs can be assured which offer each participant opportunities for such things as carry-over value, personal satisfaction, social values, and the ideals of fair play and sportsmanship.

The existing Intramural-Recreational Sports program is being directed by a part-time, adjunct person in conjunction with the aid of student assistants. By contrast, summer programs and student programs are both afforded the services of full-time staff positions. The contention is held by many on the Peru State campus that Intramural-Recreational Sports programs merit the same considerations or status, but not at the expense of existing programs. In addition to a full-time faculty position entitled, "Director of Recreational Sports," students and staff have advocated provisions for an assistant program director. This individual could be a responsible graduate student receiving the equivalency of a graduate assistantship stipend. The remaining staff would be comprised of student assistants who would be funded by institutional and federal work-study monies.

The Director of Recreational Sports salary could be justified by the services and programs that this staff position would provide for students, the Department of Health and Physical Education, the institution as a whole, and the community at large. For example, a portion of the position's salary could be derived from the college's general instructional budget. In turn, this would enable the college to expand its curriculum offerings in the Department of Health and Physical Education. Specifically, the following courses of instruction could become a reality:

1. Organization and Administration of Recreational Sports. This area of instruction receives very little attention in current professional preparation programs. In addition to its academic merit, a course of this nature could also offer its students a practicum that would provide the present Intramural-Recreational Sports program with some much needed student assistance.

2. Sports Officiating Courses. No such courses presently exist in the professional preparation program although they deserve consideration. They would provide an avenue for securing trained officials for the existing Peru State Intramural-Recreational Sports programs, offer a community serve to elementary and secondary schools in the search for qualified or registered officials, and the availability of competent officials would eliminate one of the biggest administrative problems associated with Intramural-Recreational Sports programming.

3. Wellness Programs and Options. No actual programs or specific courses are presently offered in the curriculum in this area, but a demand for such offerings does exist. For example, non-traditional students often seek viable alternatives to the required physical education component associated with the general education program requirement.

4. Introduction to Recreation. Limited information is available to physical education majors for career possibilities outside the area of traditional health and physical education choices. In addition, the course could provide a very practical experience for students via having them assist in the administration of various community recreation programs.

The balance of the salaried position could be split between the existing monies already appropriated to fund a part-time director's position by Student Services and income generated by the Office of Continuing Education. Participation fees could be assessed for programs provided to the community in the form of physical fitness and wellness offerings.

The current Intramural-Recreational Sports program activity offerings are limited in their scope and very traditional in their context. To fulfill the needs and interests of a much larger segment of the college community, a needs assessment and its application are in order. A sample assessment tool appears in Figure 2. The intent of the assessment is to gather potential programming information that appeals to the needs, interests, and demands of its designed audience. Combined with a sense of practicality, available resources (including financial, facilities, and personnel), and a desire to change, this process will provide proper direction for transition from a

traditionally stagnated program to a program that is modern, energized, and highly desirable. The entire process of program development will necessitate some "lead-time." However, the annual assessment of needs should be incorporated immediately and retained on an ongoing basis because the program can not function productively in a vacuum (Kinder, 1987).

In conjunction with a needs assessment, it would seem logical that the administration of Peru State would conduct a feasibility survey to determine the appropriate times that the programming would be able to serve the greatest number of consumers (students). This process would be an attempt to avoid Intramural-Recreational Sports program offerings from conflicting with academic and academically related programs, participation in intercollegiate athletics, and campus student programs. Competition for necessary equipment, supplies, and facilities must also be considered. In essence, the basic intent of the feasibility data is to offer the Intramural-Recreational Sports program and its services to the majority of its users when time and facilities indicate that it is appropriate to do so.

The finances for equipment and supplies in Intramural-Recreational Sports programs are normally generated through student fee appropriations and entry fees. With increased student fees in other areas, an increase in student fee payments or utilizing a "pay to play" concept would be

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

discouraged. Equipment and supplies do not have to represent the majority of the operational budget. A portion of the cost could be borne by the Health and Physical Education Department's instructional equipment budget, justified by cooperative usage of such, and cost accountability measures such as competitive bidding or centralized purchasing. There are other economic measures that would have application here also, but it would suffice to contend that a quality program can be conducted under the most trying circumstances. The keys become creativity, ingenuity, and resourcefulness.

The ultimate programming objective of the Intramural-Recreational Sports program is to provide participation opportunities for all participants in the activities of their choice. Thus, activity selection is a key to the success of any Intramural-Recreational Sports program (Fort Hayes State University, 1985).

Programming to a large extent will be governed by factors such as: needs, interests, and desires of its program participants; skill levels; existing facilities; available equipment; staffing, and financial resources. However, there are five general activity areas that normally serve as a basic framework for a progressive and comprehensive program. These activity classifications include individual sports, dual sports, meets, special

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

events, and co-recreational sports (Frost, Lockhart, & Marshall, 1977).

Once again, it is imperative that the program of activities be evaluated annually. The findings from a yearly assessment will enable the Director of Recreational Sports to determine the needs of clientele and to make any needed changes in future programming if possible.

As for organizational structure and staffing, the Director of Recreational Sports reports directly to the Dean of Student Services and shoulders the major responsibility of directing the entire operation of the Intramural-Recreational Sports program. Figure 3 illustrates this format in the form of an operational line and staff chart. Some of the minor operational functions and/or duties may be delegated to the assistant director or to student assistants who may be in charge of specific activities or program segments.

An Intramural-Recreational Sports Council, consisting of five elected students and appropriate faculty, should be adopted to assist in the formulation of general policies, rules, and regulations relative to the program. In addition, the Council can also serve as a disciplinary board to assist in dealing with protests, unsportsmanlike conduct episodes, and forfeitures. The program is largely student-oriented, and as a result, these students should have participation in relative decision making.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

As compared to other programs and/or services, the Intramural-Recreational Sports program is one of the 13 programs that fall under the auspices of the Dean of Student Services. At present, however, it is a potentially important service that is in a state of dormancy because it is receiving inadequate administrative attention.

An Intramural-Recreational Sports program is vital to a higher education institution because it naturally attracts participants. Second, it can aid in student development if it is conducted properly. A third rationale is the fact that it fills the existing desire of students for added physical and social activities at Peru State College. A program of this nature may also work to increase undergraduate involvement, a factor often linked to academic persistence. And finally, it may help to alleviate some disciplinary or behavioral problems associated with inactive students or students who are simply "bored."

Only by offering a comprehensive, quality program can Peru State College hope to share in the developmental process of the whole person. The many inherent values associated with Intramural-Recreational Sports programming (enjoyment, socialization, relaxation, desire for competition, physical fitness, and carry-over skills) do not accrue automatically. They are the result of a systematic, structured, planned, and guided instructional program. In addition, the program must be under the leadership of a

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

competently trained professional who utilizes the potential experiences of intramural/recreational sports participation in a constructive and educational manner. In essence, if an Intramural-Recreational Sports program can not be an integral part of the total educational process by appropriate administrative support, financial funding, and professional staffing, then the program probably does not belong in the educational and developmental aspects of student life.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

References

Carlton, P., & Stinson, R. (1983). Achieving educational goals through intramurals. Journal of Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance, 54(2), 23-24.

Kinder, T. M. (Ed). (1987). Organizational management administration for athletic programs. Dubuque, IA: Eddie Bowers Publishing.

Frost, R. B., Lockhart, B. D., & Marshall, S. J. (1977). Administration of physical education and athletics: Concepts and practices (3rd ed.). Dubuque, IA: W. C. Brown.

Fort Hayes State University. (1985). Intramural recreational sports. Hays, KS: Fort Hays State University Intramural Department.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Figure 1

Importance of the Intramural Program

WHY IS THE INTRAMURAL PROGRAM IMPORTANT?

As an integral part of a balanced physical education program,

An Intramural Program

utilizes

Carefully Selected Activities

to help produce

The Physically Educated Individual

who possesses

Physical Skills

which enable participation in a wide variety of activities.

Physical Fitness

and soundly functioning body systems for an active life.

Knowledge and Understanding

of physical and social skills, physical fitness, and the relationship of excercise to personal well-being.

Social Skills

which promote acceptable standards of behavior and positive relationships with others.

Attitudes and appreciations

which will encourage participation in and enjoyment of physical fitness, quality performance, a positive self-concept, and respect for others.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Figure 2

Activity Interest Assessment

Activity Interest Survey

In an attempt to provide you with activities that best satisfy your needs, interests, and demands, the Director of Intramural-Recreational Sports would appreciate your assistance in completing the following survey. Please circle the appropriate interest level of only the activities which appeal to you personally. The rating scale that is to be used in the survey is as follows:

5 = Strong Interest
4 = Moderate Interest
3 = Average Interest
2 = Little Interest
1 = No Interest

Upon completion of the activity interest survey, please list any recreational clubs or organizations that you would support via your leadership and participation.

THANK YOU for your time and your assistance regarding this survey.

	Activity	Rating Scale				
1/	Table Tennis Singles	5	4	3	2	1
2/	Table Tennis Doubles	5	4	3	2	1
3/	Archery	5	4	3	2	1
4/	Tennis Single	5	4	3	2	1
5/	Swimming and Diving	5	4	3	2	1
6/	Horseshoe Singles	5	4	3	2	1
7/	Tennis Doubles	5	4	3	2	1
8/	Horeshoe Doubles	5	4	3	2	1
9/	Golf	5	4	3	2	1
10/	Flag Football	5	4	3	2	1
11/	Cross Country	5	4	3	2	1
12/	Volleyball	5	4	3	2	1
13/	Basketball	5	4	3	2	1
14/	Badminton Singles	5	4	3	2	1
15/	Badminton Doubles	5	4	3	2	1
16/	Bowling	5	4	3	2	1
17/	Wrestling, Men	5	4	3	2	1
18/	Indoor Track	5	4	3	2	1
19/	Bowling Singles	5	4	3	2	1
20/	Softball	5	4	3	2	1
21/	Outdoor Track	5	4	3	2	1

	Activity	Rating Scale				
22/	Floor Hockey	5	4	3	2	1
23/	Coed Softball	5	4	3	2	1
24/	Field Goal Kicking	5	4	3	2	1
25/	Softball Throw	5	4	3	2	1
26/	Frisbee Throw	5	4	3	2	1
27/	Home Run Derby	5	4	3	2	1
28/	Coed Golf	5	4	3	2	1
29/	Coed Tennis	5	4	3	2	1
30/	Coed Intertube Water Polo	5	4	3	2	1
31/	Coed Soccer	5	4	3	2	1
32/	Coed Table Tennis	5	4	3	2	1
33/	Coed Volleyball	5	4	3	2	1
34/	Coed Badminton	5	4	3	2	1
35/	Coed Water Volleyball	5	4	3	2	1
36/	Hula Hoop Golf Tourney	5	4	3	2	1
37/	Triathalon	5	4	3	2	1
38/	3 on 3 Basketball Tourney	5	4	3	2	1
39/	4 on 4 Volleyball Tourney	5	4	3	2	1
40/	Darts Tourney	5	4	3	2	1
41/	Basketball Free-Throw Tourney	5	4	3	2	1
42/	Coed Bowling Doubles	5	4	3	2	1
43/	Sports Trivia	5	4	3	2	1
44/	Strength Competition		5	4	3	2
1						
45/	Bicycle Race	5	4	3	2	1
46/	Marathon	5	4	3	2	1
47/	Punt-Pass-Kick	5	4	3	2	1
48/	Frisbee Golf Tourney	5	4	3	2	1
49/	Wally Ball Tourney	5	4	3	2	1
50/	Pull-Kick-Swim	5	4	3	2	1
51/	Hacky Sack Tourney	5	4	3	2	1
52/	Whiffle Ball Tourney	5	4	3	2	1
53/	Basketball Horse Tourney	5	4	3	2	1

Recreational Clubs or Organizations:

_____

_____

_____

Activity Suggestions Not Included in Survey:

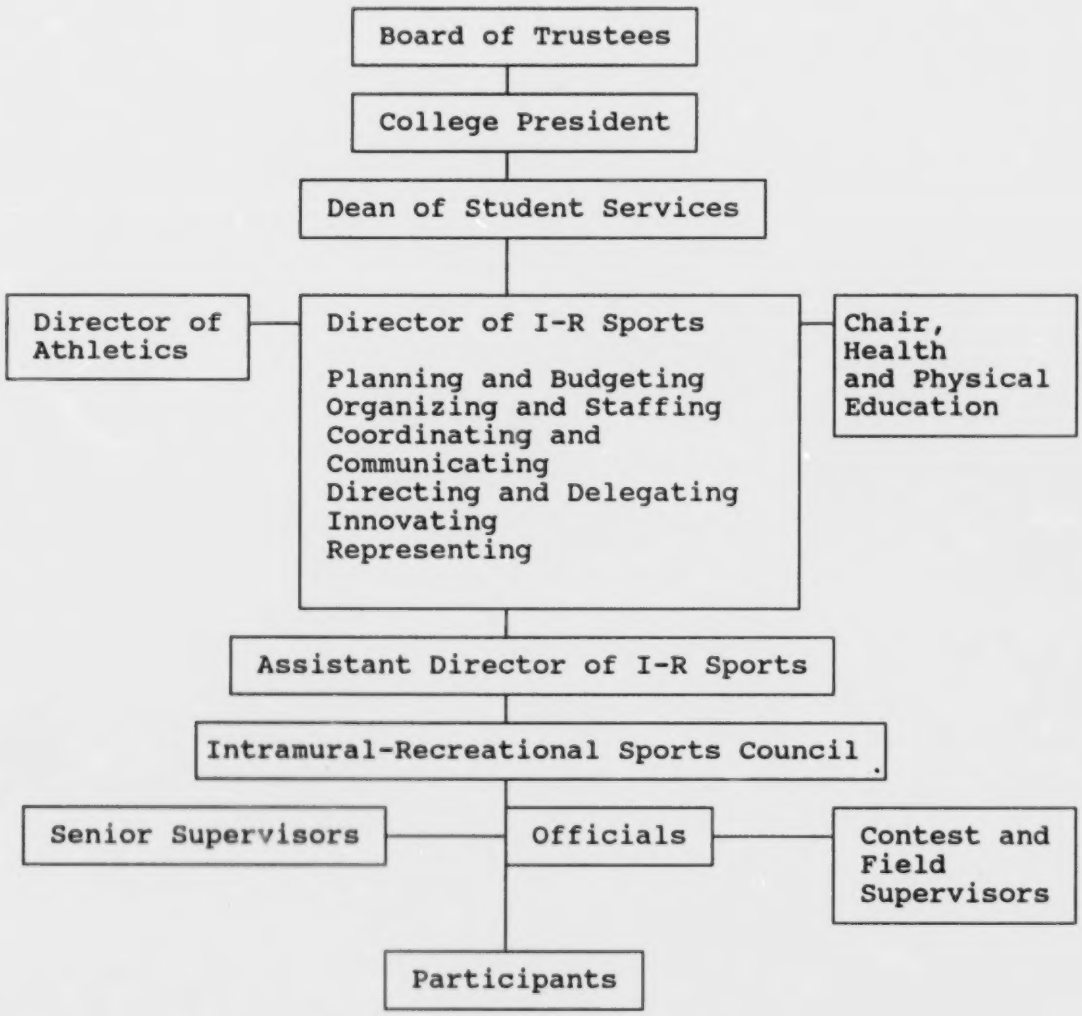
_____

_____

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Figure 3

Organizational Structure of Intramural-Recreational Sports



BEST COPY AVAILABLE